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Bangalore Mirror

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Every motorist in the city knows that use of wet mix to repair potholes is a solution that doesn't last long. But BBMP engineers don't seem to know or care

TALK ABOUT QUICK FIX, THROW IN SOME WET MIX

Stretch at Halasuru unusable due to dents and pits

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The number of potholes and craters on Swami Vivekananda Road at Halasuru has become a hurdle for the smooth movement of vehicular traffic. Two-wheeler riders are finding it difficult to navigate the potholes and craters on this busy road during the peak hours.

And trust the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers to take quick-fix measures that won't go a long way in ensuring the safety of motorists. BBMP workers were seen filling the potholes and craters with wet mix, which is not a permanent solution. These days, the BBMP Chief Commissioner makes it a point to convene meetings to advise the authorities to take measures to fill up potholes and craters on the city roads. There are occasions where the Chief Commissioner threatens to penalise the engineers if they fail to fill up potholes and craters but motorists continue to suffer while engineers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

A worker putting wet mix to fill up potholes on Swamy Vivekananda Road near Subramanya Temple at Halasuru on Saturday morning

> **"The movement of vehicles on the stretch between Halasuru Police Station and the storm drain near Halasuru Bus Stop is slow during the peak hours due to the potholes and craters. I appeal to the authorities to fill the potholes and craters with hot mix**
>
> — Chandran BR, social activist

In a fine spot

Citizens debate if it is time to bring spot fines back to curb rising traffic violations

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It has been two years since the Bengaluru traffic police discontinued the spot fining system. Previously, traffic police constables had the authority to stop vehicles on the road if they were caught violating traffic rules and impose fines on the spot. However, a senior officer informed BM that this practice has not been in place for the past two years.

A traffic police official told BM, "We have three ways of collecting fines: Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) through cameras, Field Traffic Violation Report (FTVR) using handheld cameras, and PDA machines for on-the-spot fines. However, these are not used randomly; we conduct specific drives. For example, during a drive against one-way violations, the police will issue spot fines, but in general, constables do not do it. While fines are collected and PDA machines accept card payments, we have not allowed constables to issue fines randomly for the past two years to prevent misuse and potential harassment of the public. Spot fines are issued only under the instructions of superiors and with the use of body cameras."

Recently, Alok Kumar, the Additional Director General of Police for Traffic and Road Safety had said that the traffic police are grappling with a significant number

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Laugh out loud

Spend a fun-filled evening by watching "Thrice as Nice," a play written and directed by Pritesh Bhandary. It is a collection of plays in the format of clowning, with one and only one purpose: to bring laughter; one is a fairy tale, one is set in a restaurant with a pinch of chaos, and another is a tale of a superhero told uniquely. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: June 11, 7:30 pm**

02 Art showcase

Indulge in an exhibition titled 'Ganga,' featuring works by Yusuf Arakkal and his son Shibu Arakkal. The Ganga river, a symbol of spiritual solace and cultural unity in India, inspires this showcase. Yusuf's evocative canvas creations and Shibu's photographic series 'Mallaah' capture the profound connection between the boatmen of the Ganga and the river itself. The juxtaposition of their works reflects the intersection of their artistic legacies. **Where: Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, Lavelle Road**
When: Until July 10, 10 am to 6 pm

03 Open mic night

Join in for an unforgettable evening of talent and entertainment with "Rock the Stage!" an exhilarating Open Mic Night hosted by My School of Rock, designed for music enthusiasts, poets, singers, and comedians. Embrace your passion and showcase your talent on a platform where creativity knows no bounds.
Where: My School of Rock, Koramangala
When: Until June 16

Schools allege 'discrimination' in education, raise concerns

Private schools benefit from better infrastructure & resources, government schools lack necessary facilities to provide competitive education: KAMS president

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A group of schools has recently addressed a letter to the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), calling for urgent action against another set of schools. Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka president Puttanna said that there are serious concerns about the discrimination faced by government school students in Karnataka, particularly those in classes 1–5, compared to their private school counterparts. There is a lack of a uniform curriculum and textbooks for these classes. "There is also a notable difference in how students in government and private schools are treated, which exacerbates educational inequality. The lack of a uniform curriculum and standardised textbooks has resulted in a significant decline in the quality of education in government schools. Furthermore, the current educational resources for government schools are not aligned with the national curriculum," he said.

He further said that government school students face systemic discrimination, limiting their educational opportunities and future prospects. "Hence, I urge the education minister to take immediate and effective measures to address these issues. We are advocating for equitable access to quality education for all students, regardless of whether they attend government or private schools."

Infrastructure and resources

Private schools benefit from better infrastructure and resources, giving them an unfair advantage and resulting in a bias. Government schools, in contrast, are neglected, lacking the necessary facilities to provide a competitive education. "This disparity has created an environment where government school students feel inferior and are not provided with the same opportunities as their private school peers. The focus on exams and grades has further exacerbated this issue, promoting rote learning over holistic education and affecting the overall development of students," said Puttanna. He called for immediate action to address these issues.

Disparity in education system

Meanwhile, the association's secretary, D Shashi Kumar, said that it is imperative to implement compulsory primary education in private unaided schools, just like in government-aided schools, starting from the first grade. Kumar said that since the Right to Education Act came into effect, there has been a significant decline in the quality of education due to the lack of evaluation and standards in private unaided schools. The confusion in the curriculum, frequent changes in textbooks, and chaos in examinations have led to a situation where parents are forced to seek alternative educational institutions. "The fact that students in other curricula are performing better and gaining more knowledge has become a talking point among parents. However, this is not entirely true. The so-called 'other curriculum' schools are not following the complete syllabus prescribed by the state but are focusing only on preparing students for competitive exams like NEET/JEE. They are also charging extra fees for this. This is not the case in state-run schools, where students are not getting the same opportunities. As a result, there is a disparity in the education system, and students in state-run schools are at a disadvantage. Hence, we urge the Child Rights Commission to take immediate action and investigate this matter. The commission should also take steps to ensure that the state education department takes the necessary measures to address this issue and provides equal opportunities to all students," added Kumar.

File photo of students studying from a shared textbook

Students on edge over NEET results

NTA has decided to establish committee dedicated to examining and resolving issues related to results

Following the Common Entrance Test (CET) row, the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) results are now controversial. Concerns have been raised regarding the unexpectedly high cut-off scores, compensatory marks, and the number of candidates achieving perfect scores of 720/720. Furthermore, there has been scrutiny over the presence of eight toppers, including six perfect scorers and two others with scores of 718 and 719, all allegedly from the same examination centre. Questions have also been raised about the early announcement of the results, coinciding with the Lok Sabha election results on June 4, leading to allegations that the results were disclosed ten days ahead of schedule.

In response to these concerns, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has defended its decision to announce the NEET UG results on June 4 instead of the previously announced date of June 14, citing the readiness of the

NSUI protested over the alleged irregularities in NEET UG results in Bhopal on Saturday

results and ongoing efforts to improve result declaration timelines. The variations in cut-off scores were attributed to the relative performance of candidates, with the NTA highlighting that 67 candidates achieved perfect scores this year, out of which 44 were due to a revision in one Physics Answer Key, where two options were deemed correct.

Additionally, grievances were raised regarding the loss of exam time during NEET (UG) 2024 at certain exam centres, prompting candidates to file Writ Petitions before several High Courts. In response, the NTA formed a Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) comprising examination and academic experts to address these concerns and make recommendations based on factual reports and CCTV footage from the affected centres. Compensation in the form of marks was provided to affected candidates based on their answering efficiency and time lost, following a mechanism outlined by the Supreme Court's judgement dated June 13, 2018. To further address issues related to compensatory marks, the NTA has decided to establish a committee dedicated to examining and resolving these matters.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Look up A sudden rush of rain caught many off-guard in the city on Sunday

Vishnuvardhan memorial not PIL matter: High Court

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) which sought allocation of land for construction of a memorial for the late Kannada actor Vishnuvardhan. The division bench which pronounced the verdict has noted that construction of a memorial for a film star did not fall under the subject matter of public interest litigation. "It is difficult to visualise as to what public interest will be achieved by the petitioners," the court said.

Advocate Arun KS representing the petitioners argued for the allocation of 10 guntas of land at the spot where the late actor was cremated in 2009. They said that the late actor is an iconic figure in the Kannada film industry, known for his immense contributions and hence deserved a memorial which would honor his legacy. The crores of fans he has left behind would be benefited by the memorial, they said. However, a division bench headed by Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind said that the matter was unsuitable for judicial intervention under public interest litigation.

The court noted that the issue had been previously addressed in a writ petition opposing the erection of a monument at the cremation site. The authorities had then noted that the monument would be moved to Mysuru with a significant amount of expenditure amounting to Rs 8 crore.

The bench dismissing the petition concluded that the construction of a memorial for a film star did not require judicial intervention under public interest litigation. The court noted that such matters fall under the domain of designated authorities and the court's jurisdiction in public law could not make decisions over memorials. The court has affirmed the authorities' discretion in approving requests for memorials and similar measures.

Fading public transport sends Bengaluru on car-buying spree

Number of newly registered cars reaches all-time high between Jan and April this year

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Between January and April this year, nearly 52,000 new private cars have been registered in Bengaluru, registering a 7% jump from last year. The number of newly registered units in the same four-month period has also been growing steadily over the years and has reached an all-time high.

According to data from the Karnataka Transport Department, 51,989 units were sold between January and April this year. Between January and April last year, 48,462 new cars were registered in the city. In 2022, this was close to 47,000, whereas in 2021, 46,367 cars were registered in the first four months.

Public transport

Experts say an affordable and efficient public transport system is the only antidote to the surge in private vehicles on city roads. Unless the city increases its capacity and network of mass transit systems, the number of private car ownership will keep skyrocketing.

"The number of cars is going up every year due to poor public transport system. There is not much increase in the capacity of public transport systems over the last few years despite Bengaluru's exponential growth towards the outskirts," said a public transport proponent.

City-based mobility experts opine while multiple mass rapid transit projects such as metro and suburban rail projects are underway, none have met the set deadlines. Priority is still being given to road infrastructure projects.

"The number of cars is going up every year due to poor public transport system. There is not much increase in the capacity of public transport systems over the last few years despite Bengaluru's exponential growth towards the outskirts

This inadequate public transport system coupled with an unnecessary push to road infrastructure development projects is leading to a higher number of private vehicles on Bengaluru roads.

"While the public transport projects such as metro and BSRP are moving at a snail's pace, road infrastructure projects have been fast-paced. None of the metro lines has ever been completed on time and K-RIDE's suburban rail project has only been crawling. All these rapid mass transit systems are terribly behind schedule. This trend will only lead to more traffic congestion as the number of vehicles keeps going up," said a mobility expert.

Better policy needed

They say it is time that the government considers a comprehensive policy that discourages private cars and improves the public transport network to make it more attractive and easy to use with efficient first and last-mile connectivity to existing public transport systems. Private vehicle users will shift to a public mode of transport only when the end-to-end journey is affordable, convenient, and time-saving.

"Decision makers should prioritise commuter preferences, such as affordable and high-frequency services in last-mile service design. Feeder routes for existing metro lines need to be strengthened," noted the expert.

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IRR mayhem: Commuters demand drainage revamp

IRR faces flooding and potholes due to drainage neglect and design flaws; BBMP urged to desilt during dry season

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Even with short spells of rain, the Inner Ring Road (Koramangala) floods frequently and poses accident risks to motorists. Motorists say that BBMP needs to desilt during the summer season to avoid the mess that has been ongoing for 4 years.

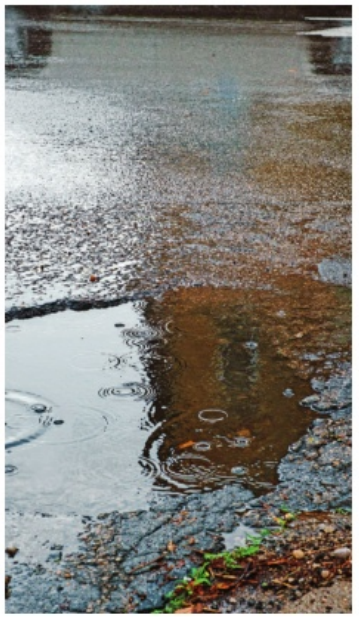
The Inner Ring Road connecting Indiranagar and Koramangala experiences frequent flooding across multiple sections, even with brief rain showers. Parts of the flooded road cover the potholes leaving motorists, especially two-wheelers at accident risk. Motorists say that BBMP should desilt the drains annually before the monsoon season.

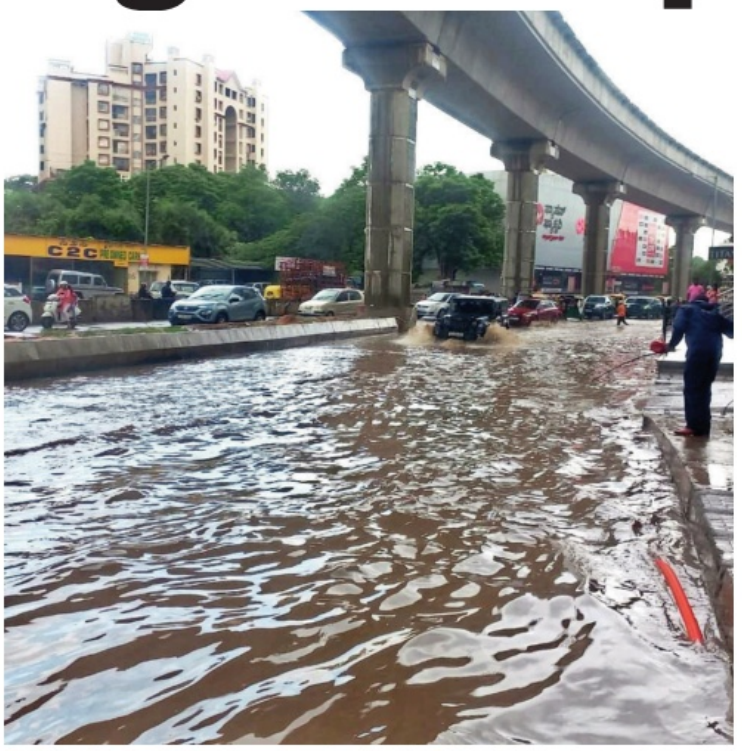
"The IRR experiences flooding during rains. There are also potholes on the stretch which can be dangerous for motorists. The problem lies in the basic idea of drainage and carriageway not being followed. Due to the lack of regular desilting of drains, water often flows over the drains. Additionally, design flaws in the road gradient, side drains, and carriageway exacerbate the issue.BBMP should conduct desilting during the summer season when there are no rains" said Vinod Jacob, a frequent commuter.

Covering a distance of more than 10 kilometres, only a segment of the road has been surfaced with white topping. The portion that remains asphalted lies at a lower gradient than the white-topped road. "After white topping, there has been more frequent flooding. White-topped roads can lead to more water-run-off and lesser percolation of water into the groundwater" he added.

Commuters are urging BBMP to redirect the water flow towards Bellandur Lake. "Utilising the drain system, the water should be diverted to Bellandur lake and fill it. Additionally, there should be a designated chamber under the footpaths to allow for easy cleaning of the drains" he added

"Design flaws in the drains exacerbate the issue. BBMP should conduct desilting during summer season when there are no rains – Vinod, citizen





Bannerghatta road submerged under heavy rainfall

Bannerghatta's monsoon woes

Bengaluru's rains provide relief from the heat but also trigger persistent waterlogging issues, notably on Bannerghatta Road. Despite numerous past complaints, the situation remains unchanged, causing frustration for many commuters.

Bannerghatta Road frequently experiences waterlogging during heavy rains, a longstanding issue locals and commuters have voiced concerns about for years. Despite this, effective solutions remain elusive, leaving the road inundated and posing hazards for motorists and pedestrians. Navigating through flooded streets becomes challenging for vehicles, resulting in frustratingly long traffic jams.

A commuter expressed disappointment, saying "Every year it's the same story. We face hours of traffic just because the road can't handle a little rain. It's beyond frustrating. I have heard and seen promises of fixes, but when the rains come, it's chaos all over again. Something needs to change."

Despite ongoing attempts by authorities like BBMP to clear culverts and improve drainage, their effectiveness remains questionable. A citizen said, "We pay taxes anticipating basic infrastructure maintenance. However, during every monsoon season, Bannerghatta Road resembles more of a river than a thoroughfare. It's not just an inconvenience; it's a safety hazard. Ambulances face difficulties navigating through, heightening the risk of accidents."

— Iffath Fathima

Green collaboration: GarbhaGudi and Spoorthidhama unite for environment

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GarbhaGudi, a prominent IVF centre, joined hands with Spoorthidhama to commemorate World Environment Day by planting more than 350 diverse plants at Spoorthidhama. The tree-planting initiative was inaugurated by Vijaykumar S, Founder and CEO of GarbhaGudi IVF Centre, Dr. Asha S Vijay, Founder and Medical Director of GarbhaGudi, and Mariswamy S, President of Spoorthidhama. Several children from Milind School enthusiastically joined the tree-planting event.

GarbhaGudi's CEO highlighted the significance of environmental awareness, particularly among children, urging them to draw inspiration from notable figures like Sweden's Greta Thunberg and Karnataka's environmental champion Thimmakka. He introduced an innovative concept of planting a tree on each child's birthday, instilling a sense of environmental responsibility. Dr. Asha S Vijay echoed these sentiments, stressing the importance of children connecting with nature and prioritising cleanliness for a healthier lifestyle. She urged them to embrace their role as responsible citizens in safeguarding the environment.

During the event, Mariswamy, President of Spoorthidhama, emphasised, "We have already inflicted damage on the environment, and planting trees is just one step towards its preservation." He later on educated the children on Earth's history and human evolution, underlining the significance of nature. Dr Anita Manoj from GarbhaGudi led an Eco Pledge, which all students took, committing to safeguard the environment. Notable personalities from GarbhaGudi, including Hari Srinivasan, CEO of GGIRHR, Jayaram R, Associate Vice-President, and Ravi Ajjipura, Media Manager, were present at the event alongside Vijay and other representatives from Spoorthidhama.

Over 350 diverse trees were planted; sparking eco-awareness in children

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Tree down

Victoria Layout

A tree from the army compound, has collapsed onto the drainage road in Victoria Layout, presenting a hazard.

Sewage spill

Railway Colony

A broken sewage pipe in Railway Colony, Venkatachary Nagar, RMV 2nd Stage is causing sewage to flow all over the area, posing health risks to citizens. Moreover, multiple broken stormwater drain covers are endangering pedestrians.

Trash turmoil

Cox Town

Garbage dumping near the Indian Gymkhana club is making life difficult for citizens living nearby. The resulting stench is unbearable and is causing sickness among children and elders in the area.

Citizen initiative promotes active mobility in Bengaluru

Over 550 cyclists pedal to promote sustainable mobility & beat pollution in city

It was a cold morning in Bengaluru for us all, but it definitely wasn't so for these cyclists who took to the streets to promote cycling. With over 550 registrations, the first edition of 'Pedaluru' had a great start as cyclists turned up early in the morning at Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.

Sathya Sankaran, Bengaluru's Bicycle Mayor, emphasised the need for increased corporate incentives to promote cycling, highlighting the importance of quantifiable and measurable impacts. Pedaluru 2024, a citizen-driven event, is set to expand with greater corporate involvement, which will be assessed based on their contributions to promoting sustainable urban mobility. The event aims to achieve three main objectives: plan, engage, and build. "Firstly, collaborating with the city government to integrate cycling into the Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) policy, supporting the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) for effective implementation, and improving road safety for cyclists. Secondly, it aims to engage with cyclists, citizen groups, civic activists, and corporates to promote cycling as an ideal commuting option through social media campaigns and on-ground activities. Lastly, Pedaluru advocates for better cycling infrastructure, strict enforcement of traffic laws for cyclist safety, and aspires to make Bengaluru the cycling capital of India," he said.

He added that collaboration with government agencies like the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), K-RIDE, and Bengaluru Smart City (BenSCL) is crucial for achieving these goals.

Malleswaram Swabhimana Initiative, along with other partners, arranged for cycle rides, drawing and pedal parade competitions

> **"Pedaluru plays an important role in promoting positivity and offering healthy alternatives to hectic urban lifestyle**
>
> –Arun Kumar, cycling enthusiast

"Pedaluru receives support from the Indo-German Development Cooperation project 'Sustainable Urban Mobility: Air Quality, Climate Action, and Accessibility (SUMACA)'," said Sankaran.

Arun Kumar Kalyansundaram, a 42-year-old cycling enthusiast, praised the initiative, highlighting its positive impact and the opportunity it provides for networking with diverse cycling groups. He emphasised the importance of Pedaluru, acknowledging its role in promoting positivity and offering a healthy alternative to the hectic urban lifestyle while addressing pollution concerns.

Hemramb Kulkarni, a 15-year-old, viewed cycling through the city's bustling streets as more than just a mode of transportation. To him, it was a powerful message. He expressed appreciation for the support for cycling in cities like Bengaluru, where commuting can be challenging. "Events like Pedaluru foster community spirit and raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable mobility."

Shyamolie Bharathi, aged 34, underscored the broader impact of initiatives like Pedaluru. She emphasised the significance of such activities in working towards the larger goal of making Bengaluru more cycle-friendly. "Pedaluru represents a community-driven effort to create healthier, greener, and more connected communities, going beyond being just a cycling event," she said.

–Krishna Thakkar

Community celebration

For the first time at Wilson Garden, a mela was organised for the welfare of the residents by the Wilson Garden Residents Association (WGRA) on Sunday. With around 20 stalls put up, the mela provided an opportunity for the residents, both children and adults, to have an enjoyable atmosphere, interact, and shop together.

Chickpet MLA Uday B Garudachar inaugurated the mela. "Esha Agarwal, a resident, came up with this idea. It is a humble beginning, with 20 stalls. Our objective is to ensure residents live in harmony in the locality," said Subhash Chandra, secretary of WGRA, adding that he expects the mela to draw around 2,500 footfalls by Sunday evening.

Speaking to the Bangalore Mirror, Agarwal said that the mela provides an opportunity for children and residents to mingle and get to know each other. "Many children in the locality do not know who their neighbours are. This mela provides an opportunity for children to know about their neighbours and also become friends," she added.

> **'We are expecting a good response to this unique mela. Based on which, we will take the decision to make it an annual event'**

The organisers had also arranged games for children. There were three lucky draws until noon, where each ticket costs Rs 10, and the lucky winner gets Rs 500 as prize money. Rekha Shankar, vice president of WGRA, said, "We are expecting a good response to this mela. Many people have visited it. Based on the response, we will take the decision to make it an annual event."

Additionally, two students were seen trying to showcase their business skills by putting up a stall to sell dress materials. "We invested Rs 5,000 at a fair held in Jayanagar recently and earned 100 per cent profit. This time, we are here to sell dress materials. We are expecting to earn a good profit. We purchased the dress materials from a wholesaler," said Tanvi Vijay and R Samarth, BBA students at PES College.

-Y Maheswara Reddy

From drab to fab: Volunteers spruce up Cubbon Park

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Over the past three months, multiple projects have been completed to repair broken fences, damaged seating, and gazebos, and to spruce up grills and gates at Cubbon Park. This time around, over 250 runners visited the park with a unique purpose: to show some love and give back to their beloved park by restoring and sprucing up identified public areas across the park. The Horticulture Department has welcomed citizen initiatives to support repairs and improvements in the park.

These efforts were facilitated by India Rising Trust, an NGO dedicated to improving public spaces across Bengaluru, in partnership with the Horticulture Department. This initiative marks a new hands-on approach to citizen-government collaboration, aimed at improving cherished and heavily used public spaces.

On this special day, volunteers donned specially designed 'I Love Cubbon Park' t-shirts and got to work. Their efforts included cleaning and painting over one kilometre of chain-link fences, footpath curbs, and hundreds of large flower pots that decorate the park, giving it a fresh new look. Importantly, the volunteers did not engage in cleanup activities, as the park was already clean thanks to the park's housekeeping department, which effectively manages daily litter. Instead, all volunteer energy was focused on revitalising old and run-down sections of the park that needed attention.

Volunteers clean and paint chain-link fences at Cubbon Park

Similarly, a group of volunteers from Prestige Group spent their Saturday morning at the Dog Park, focusing on repairs and maintenance. They worked on repairing broken benches, inspecting the ground for hazardous items like broken glass, and giving the walls a facelift. The area now boasts a clean, fresh look that will surely be appreciated by dogs and their owners who visit in the coming days.

Emphasising the significance of the park, Arun Pai, founder of Bangalore Walks and coordinator of India Rising Trust, said, "Cubbon Park is a jewel in the crown of Bengaluru. It is our duty to give back and support the authorities in managing and protecting the park for current users and future generations. We have been working closely with the Horticulture Department for the past three months, conducting several volunteer events and executing multiple small repair jobs that have improved the safety and aesthetics of the park."

Priya Nair, a regular walker at Cubbon Park, said, "The park looks revitalised and even more inviting. It's wonderful to see so many people come together to care for a place that holds so much significance for our community."

All set for third term

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi, on Sunday

Ones who made it

Meet members of Parliament from Karnataka who made it to Modi 3.0's jumbo Cabinet

When Narendra Modi assumed office as Prime Minister for the third term in a row, four Members of Parliament from Karnataka were included in the jumbo cabinet. With this Karnataka has got five ministers as Nirmala Sitharaman is a Rajya Sabha member elected from the state. Former Chief Minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy (representing Mandya) and Dharwad MP Pralhad Joshi were sworn in as Cabinet ministers, while Tumakuru MP V Somanna and Bengaluru North MP Shobha Karandlaje took oath as State ministers. The cabinet selection came as a surprise, with notable figures like former CM Basavaraj S Bommai, Jagadish Shettar, and Ramesh Jigajanagi absent. The inclusion of Sommana's name was unexpected. Meanwhile, former CMs such as Shivaraj Singh Chouhan and Manohar Khattar made it into the cabinet, making it more surprising that Bommai and Shettar were left out. Kumaraswamy and Karandlaje represented the Vokkaliga community, while Joshi is a Brahmin caste and Sommanna to the Lingayat community.

People gather on the day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi, on Sunday

HD Kumaraswamy

Kumaraswamy became the first non-BJP minister and the ninth individual to be sworn in as a Union Minister. He secured victory in the Mandya Lok Sabha constituency with a significant margin of 2.84 lakh votes against Congress candidate Venkaramane Gowda, garnering 58.34% (8.51 lakh) of the votes compared to Gowda's 38.85% (5.67 lakh) votes. At 65 years old, Kumaraswamy defended his party and family following an alleged obscene video scandal involving his nephew Prajwal Revanna. In 2005, the JD-S joined a coalition government with the Congress in the state under Chief Minister N Dharam Singh. However, on February 3, 2006, Kumaraswamy and his 42 MLAs withdrew from the coalition and formed a government with BJP's support. This marked his first term as Chief Minister and the BJP's first time in power in South India. The BJP-JD(S) government later collapsed on October 9, 2007. Kumaraswamy assumed the role of Chief Minister for the second time during the Congress-JD(S) coalition government from May 23, 2018, to July 23, 2019.

Pralhad Joshi

Pralhad Joshi, a staunch supporter of the RSS and a seasoned BJP member, has served as a Member of Parliament from Dharwad in Karnataka for the fifth consecutive term, representing the party's stronghold. Known for his close ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leader Amit Shah, Joshi previously held significant portfolios such as Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs in the prior Cabinet. During his tenure as the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Joshi played a pivotal role in facilitating the functioning of both Houses of Parliament and in the passage of numerous crucial national bills during the 17th Lok Sabha. He spearheaded various policy reforms aimed at unlocking the full potential of the Coal & Mining sector, said to a senior BJP official.

The selection came as a surprise, with notable figures like former CM Basavaraj S Bommai, Jagadish Shettar, and Ramesh Jigajanagi absent

V Somanna

Once on the verge of leaving BJP, this MP secured a central berth due to loyalty after unsuccessful Assembly bids in Varuna and Chamarajanagar. He won the Tumakuru Lok Sabha seat, defying speculations of Congress defection. A Lingayat leader with a varied political journey, he served in JD, Congress, and BJP, holding ministries and legislative positions since 1994. Notably, he quit Congress to join BJP, facing electoral defeats but regaining power through Legislative Council membership and ministerial roles. His political resilience culminated in key positions like Minister of Horticulture, Sericulture, Housing, and Infrastructure Development until May 2023.

Shobha Karandlaje

A vocal RSS-linked politician, returned to the union government after a stint as Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Known for her strong stance on issues like religious extremism and 'love jihad', she represents the influential Vokkaliga community in Karnataka. Previously a cabinet minister in Karnataka, she won three Lok Sabha terms and transitioned to Bangalore North due to opposition in Udupi-Chikkamagaluru. Karandlaje's political journey started in 1996, rising through BJP ranks to serve as MLC, MLA, and minister in the state government, emphasizing rural development and power sectors. **— BMB**

Constitutional duty...': Kharge arrives to attend oath ceremony

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge arrived to attend the oath ceremony of Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi and said that he is attending the event because of the "constitutional duty." "I am attending this event because of the constitutional duty. I being the LoP in the Rajya Sabha, this is my duty," Kharge said. When asked if he would congratulate PM-designate Narendra Modi, he said, "If I meet, I will see."

Meanwhile, Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said that they (BJP) have a majority that's why they are taking the oath. "We don't have a majority that's why we are in opposition and fighting for the cause of the people and this country," Shivakumar said. The stage is set for the oath ceremony of Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the national capital today. None of the opposition leaders attended the oath-taking of Modi and his cabinet and Kharge represented the INDIA bloc there. TMC leader Sagarika Ghosh posted her invitation letter on X earlier and said that she would not be attending the ceremony.

"Respected @rashtrapatibhvn. Thank you for your kind invitation. I regret that since we in the Opposition do not accept the moral legitimacy of the swearing in of Shri @narendramodi who has lost the mandate of the people, I have made a personal decision not to attend," she wrote on X.

Another TMC leader said, "Our leader (Mamata Banerjee) has already announced, we are not attending the swearing in." **— Agencies**

CMs' council

Seven former chief ministers, including Narendra Modi, are part of the new council of ministers sworn in on Sunday.

The other six former chief ministers are Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Rajnath Singh (Uttar Pradesh), Manohar Lal Khattar (Haryana), Sarbananda Sonowal (Assam), HD Kumaraswamy (Karnataka), and Jitan Ram Manjhi (Bihar). While five of these former chief ministers are from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kumaraswamy and Manjhi represent two of the BJP's allies -- JD(S) and Hindustani Awam Morcha, respectively.

Modi, along with his council of ministers, took the oath as the new coalition government was formed after two full tenures during which the BJP enjoyed a majority on its own. **— PTI**

Much splendour at swearing-in ceremony

Dignitaries, celebrities and supporters of the BJP during the swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi on Sunday. It was an air of festivities as political veterans and debutants, business leaders and showbiz stars, almost everybody who is anybody in India, and many who are not... more than 8,000 people packed into the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt on Sunday as Narendra Modi was sworn in as prime minister for a third consecutive term

Modi sworn in as PM for third consecutive term

Rajnath, Shah, Gadkari return as ministers

President Droupadi Murmu administers oath of office to Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of India

Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Sunday, becoming only the second PM after Jawaharlal Nehru to secure a third consecutive term.

Along with Modi, who took oath in the name of God, senior BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar were sworn in as cabinet ministers, indicating the Prime Minister's emphasis on continuity and experience as they also held senior positions in his second term.

Party president JP Nadda returned to the cabinet after five years, while former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and ex-Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar were the fresh faces in the Modi cabinet.

BJP leaders Piyush Goyal, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupender Yadav, who were earlier in the Rajya Sabha but have now been elected to the Lok Sabha, were among those retained as ministers.

Former Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Virendra Kumar, Pralhad Joshi, Giriraj Singh and Jual Oram, all from BJP, were among those sworn in as ministers.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to them.

Modi, 73, first became prime minister in 2014 and then returned to office in 2019. He was re-elected to Lok Sabha from Varanasi.

Among the allies of the BJP, which did not get a majority on its own this time, JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy, HAM (Secular) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi, JD(U) leader Lalan Singh and TDP's K Ram Mohan Naidu also took the oath of office as ministers.

Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was present, even as several opposition leaders skipped the ceremony.

Those present on the occasion included Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, TDP president Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar.

Bollywood actors Shahrukh Khan and Rajinikanth, and industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani were among those who attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Modi's third term, which always appeared inevitable, did not come with the massive mandate he and his party had been claiming, as the Congress and its allies in the INDIA bloc fought a doughty rearguard battle to shock the BJP in its strongholds such as Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

It is, however, a tribute to his towering political presence that the BJP's third-best tally of 240 seats is being seen as a disappointment by the party's ardent supporters and projected as a "moral defeat" by the Congress whose own tally of 99 seats, its third worst, is being hailed by the opposition party.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has won 293 seats (out of 543), which Modi has noted is the biggest success for any pre-poll alliance when a single party did not get a majority.

Top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region -- Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Bhutanese PM Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif -- were special guests at the function. **-PTI**

Odisha: Oath ceremony of BJP govt on June 12

The swearing-in-ceremony of the new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Odisha has been rescheduled to June 12 instead of June 10 announced earlier.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is busy in connection with the formation of the government at the Centre. He is going to hold a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu tomorrow (Monday). He will also attend the swearing in ceremony of the new government in Andhra Pradesh," said BJP spokesperson Jatin Mohanty.

Mohanty said as PM Modi will be busy with other important programmes, the oath taking ceremony in Odisha has been deferred by two days.

The grand event will be held now on June 12. The meeting of the newly elected MLAs of BJP will be held before the mega event on June 11 when the name of the new Chief Minister of the state will be announced. The new CM along with his ministers will take oath at the Janata Maidan here on June 12.

According to sources, PM Modi is likely to hold a huge roadshow from Jayadev Vihar to Janata Maidan and later hold a press meet there on June 12.

Meanwhile, preparations are almost completed at Janata Maidan for the grand oath taking ceremony on June 12.

PM Modi along with VVIPs from other states are scheduled to attend the grand event.

The Odisha Police have also made adequate security arrangements at the venue. Around 40,000 to 50,000 people are likely to witness the event.

The BJP is going to form the government on its own for the first time in Odisha since Independence.

It has secured 78 of the 147 Assembly seats in the recently concluded elections. **-IANS**

Traffic police grapple with fine backlog as tech takes over

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of violations and a large backlog of fines, which have reached a total of Rs 1,700 crore across the state as of March 31. Bengaluru City alone accounts for Rs 1,425 crore of this amount. Despite introducing discount schemes, the issue remains largely unresolved.

Due to the high number of fine backlogs and the complaints of police not being visible on the road, many say that spot fine collection should be reintroduced. "Looking at the total lack of discipline and fear among motorists, I feel spot-fines need to be brought back. This is not just for collection of fines, but also for prevention of reckless behaviour on roads. The presence of police personnel (who are also empowered to collect fines) can stop a large number of violations," said a citizen.

"At the same time, citizens should be made aware of the requirements like body cameras. They should not be bullied by the police if they record the conversation on their own smartphones," he said.

Use tech

Others BM spoke to said that since the issue is fine collection, the government should focus on testing their process of collecting fines through the use of technology rather than deploying more traffic police personnel on ground.

"Though it will definitely help in collecting fines against any violations, how much can the police personnel do when there are 100s of vehicles simultaneously on the road? Rather than moving back and forth with their solutions, it would be much better to go back to the whiteboard and brainstorm ideas on how they can make their current process of collecting fines foolproof," said a commuter.

Another citizen Naman noted that the suspension of spot fining by the Bengaluru Traffic Police was intended to avoid worsening the already challenging traffic conditions. "However, this has led to a substantial backlog of unpaid fines, with many perpetrators using fake or incorrect number plates, thus undermining the system. To address this, the police should conduct weekly drives across different parts of the city, actively spot-fining violators.

Reckless driving often indicates a history of unpaid fines, and such drivers' records should be checked, with their vehicles seized if fines are not cleared.

While a 50% discount on fines was offered last year, integrating fines with insurance premiums or using AI to catch violators on the spot could be more effective solutions," he said.

BM Finance Fundas

Paying rent in cash without a rent receipt?

Paying rent in combination with cash and online transfer or only cash can get you in trouble — your landlord can very well deny a rent receipt or not show it in his income tax return to avoid tax.

You can get an income tax notice and your house rent allowance (HRA) claim may be rejected. This is because, for every HRA claim, there must be a corresponding income offered for tax by the landlord. However, if a landlord who is taking rent in cash does not offer this for income tax, you could land into trouble with the tax department.

As per Sujit Bangar, former IRS officer and founder of TaxBuddy.com, "In India, generally, the amount received in cash is not reported in an income tax return. Most of the time, the purpose of taking rent in cash is to avoid income tax and subsequent reporting of such income in an income tax return."

Is it forbidden for you to pay landlords rental payments in cash?

As per tax experts' tenants and landlords can deal in cash for rental payments, nothing is barring them from doing so, provided they follow the provisions of Section 269ST of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

As per section 269ST, it is prohibited from receiving an amount of Rs 2 lakh or more in cash:

- In aggregate from a single person
- In respect of a single transaction; or
- In respect of transactions relating to one event or occasion from a person

"The penalty for failure to comply with the provisions of Section 269ST is a sum equal to the amount of such receipt," says Neeraj Agarwala, Partner, Nangia Andersen India, a tax and business consultancy company.

Hence as per the law, landlords can accept rental income in cash up to the limits specified in Section 269ST. However, the landlords have to offer this rental income for income tax.

What should you do if a landlord only accepts rental payments in cash?

Experts say that landlords who only accept rental payments in cash are most likely to not declare this income for tax and neither will they be willing to give their PAN number to you. But you still need the landlord's PAN number if the annual rent exceeds Rs 1 lakh as your employer will ask for it. If the landlord's PAN is not submitted, the employer will not consider the HRA exemption while calculating TDS, leading to an excess tax deduction from your salary.

Here what you should do in situations where either the landlord is not giving rent receipts or not sharing his/her PAN number:

Rent receipts and/or rental agreement not given by Landlord: Rent receipts are official documents provided by landlords to tenants upon receiving rent payment. Similarly rental agreements are also insisted upon by some employers. Sometimes it may also help prove the situation if there is any income tax scrutiny on you.

"While there are no restrictions or penalty levied on tenants to make payment in cash, however, a penalty is levied in the hands of the landlord for failure to comply with the provisions of section 269ST. In case the landlord does not provide the tenant a rent receipt the tenant may not be able to claim HRA exemption," says Agarwala.

"To claim HRA exemption under Section 10(13A) of the Income Tax Act, tenants need to provide proof of rent payment. Rent receipts and the landlord's PAN are essential documents for this purpose. Some employers also insist on the rental agreement for claiming HRA," says Priyanka Jain, Associate Partner, Vaish Associates Advocate.

Landlord is not giving PAN: "If the landlord refuses to share their PAN but the tenant has all the necessary documents to substantiate the rent payments, the tenant can still directly claim the HRA exemption in their income tax return and file for a refund of the excess tax deducted. However, this approach increases the likelihood of receiving a notice from the Income Tax Department, requiring the tenant to provide proof to support their HRA claim," says Agarwala.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Kushal Balaji S/O, Balaji Bhagyanathareddy R/o No 51 80 Feet Road Near Nithya Heritage Appartment Deepika Layout Gubbalala Bengaluru - 560061 have changed my name to Kushal Reddy B.

I Sanju Napolean S/O, Nepolean K R/o 556/1 Manju Nivas, 100 Ft Rd,15th Cross,chokkasandra,jalahalli Cross,Bangalore,karanataka,560057 have changed my name to Sanju Nepolean.

I J Salam S/O, Jaila Sab R/o No 16, 1st Floor 2nd Cross Umar Nagar, Nagawara Main Road A.c Post Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Salam Pasha.

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BBMP needs to find sturdier solutions, say citizens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

escape from being punished.

Demanding that the BBMP at least use the hot mix (asphaltic mix) instead of wet mix, Chandran BR, a social activist from Halasuru, said the wet mix will not last long. "I have seen a two-wheeler rider meeting a road accident near Trinity Junction due to a pothole. I took him to the nearest hospital for treatment.

Later, I sent the photo of the pothole to the BBMP authorities who took measures to fill up that pothole. The movement of vehicles on the stretch between Halasuru Police Station and the storm drain near Halasuru Bus Stop is slow during the peak hours due to the potholes and craters. I appeal to the authorities to fill the potholes and craters with hot mix,'' said Chandran.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP engineers for being negligent in filling up potholes, Ashok K, a auto rickshaw driver, said that it has become tough to drive auto rickshaws on roads filled with potholes and craters. "The BBMP authorities must find a solution for potholes on a permanent basis. The wet mix put on the road will not last for long,'' said Ashok.

Expressing a similar opinion, Naveen P, a pedestrian, said the condition of footpaths too is far from satisfactory. "I do not know what is preventing the BBMP engineers from keeping the road free of potholes and creating pedestrian-friendly footpaths.

A pedestrian fell into the drain near Subramanya Temple last year due to poor quality of concrete slabs. The BBMP will do well to fix these problems as early as possible for the benefit of pedestrians and motorists,'' said Naveen.

A BBMP engineer BM spoke to assured us that the problems would be fixed.

HEALTH TIP: The protein and probiotic bacteria found in yoghurt help with digestion

A whole avocado contains about 15 grams of heart-healthy fats and just 2 grams of net carbs

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Drink up

Hydration is really important for learning. How much do kids need to drink?

Last month, Ballarat Clarendon College began a trial to ban water bottles in the classroom for students in Years 5 to 9. According to the school, "early feedback" indicated it had reduced noise and bathroom breaks during class time.

Along with becoming a status symbol and fashion item, water bottles are now considered essential for school.

So how much water do children need in a day? And what impact does it have on their brains?

How much fluid do children and teenagers need?

The amount of fluid children need will depend on the weather and how much physical activity they do. But as a general guide:

Children aged four to eight should have about 1.2 litres per day

- boys nine to 13 should have 1.6 litres
- girls nine to 13 should have 1.4 litres
- boys over 14 should have 1.9 litres
- girls over 14 should have 1.6 litres

As the Australian Dietary Guidelines stress, it is preferable to meet most fluid needs by drinking plain water. If your child does not like drinking water you could consider adding a squeeze of juice.

Research suggests many school-aged children do not drink enough and arrive at school already dehydrated. A 2017 study involving 6,469 children (aged four to 17) from 13 countries (not including Australia) found 60% of children and 75% of adolescents did not consume enough water from fluids.

> **Along with being a status symbol and fashion item, water bottles are now considered essential for school. Let's take a look at how much water kids need**

How often do they need to drink?

There is no specific advice about how often children and adolescents need to drink. But the main message from research is students need to start drinking from the time they get up.

Having a drink of water first thing in the morning regulates the body and brain to use water well, setting up mental performance for the rest of the day.

Research also tells us children need to keep drinking substantial amounts of water (about 250-300ml) throughout the day, rather than just taking little sips here and there to keep the brain in a hydrated state.

Why is water so important for our brains?

About 75% of all brain mass is water and our brains need water to keep working.

Among other functions, water helps brain cells and tissue to balance hormone levels, maintain proper blood flow and deliver vitamins, minerals and oxygen to your brain.

Even mild levels of dehydration can increase levels of the hormone cortisol, which can lead to feeling nervous, tense and irritable. This can muddle up the brain's processing of information as well as our energy levels, emotions and behaviour.

So if students are adequately hydrated it sets up their brains to be in an optimal state to concentrate and pay attention at school.

How can water help learning?

Beyond helping our bodies to function, research also shows drinking water can help our brains to learn.

A 2020 study of German children in Year 5 and 6 showed those who had at least 50% of their daily water requirements (about 1 litre) over a four hour period in the morning had better memory performance overall.

The research showed children's ability to pay attention to visual information was much better after drinking water, compared to no water.

A 2019 US study looked at the impact of water on young people's "cognitive flexibility". This is the capacity to think about multiple concepts at the same time or quickly switch thinking between two concepts.

Over four days, children aged nine to eleven were given different amounts to drink. Those who drank up to 2.5 litres of water over 24 hours (even more than the recommended adequate amount) were better at switching between mental tasks compared to those who drank lesser amounts.

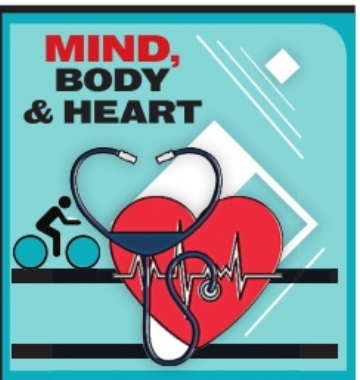
Water as part of children's routines

Having other regular moments for drinking water can also help create steady routines for children and young people. Routines are an important way to manage attention, emotions and behaviour.

Water breaks don't necessarily need to be during class time (particularly if schools are finding them disruptive). But they do need to be at predictable times during the day.

So, having a drink of water when kids wake up, at meal times, when kids get to school, at the start or end of classes and when they get home can all provide useful anchor points.

(By Talitha Best, CQ University Australia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Flexibility

Benefits of flexibility

Prevents injuries – A flexible body can withstand more physical stress. Flexibility eliminates muscle imbalances, which reduces the chances of getting injuries significantly.

Improves posture and balance – A body focused on increasing muscular flexibility leads to improved posture and balance. As a result of proper alignment and balance, one may find it easier to sit or stand in certain ways.

Provides a positive state of mind – Exercising and practising different poses that stretch and open up your body can bring about feelings of relaxation within and provide a positive state of mind.

Pro Tip: Stretching has been shown to benefit cardiovascular health, pain and inflammation reduction, and stress management.

Types of flexibility training

Stretching can be done in a variety of ways to improve flexibility. Each one serves different functions. "While the term flexibility refers to the current state of the joint, the process of elongating the muscles and tissues is called stretching. And there are broadly three types of stretching techniques – Static Stretching, Dynamic Stretching, and PNF stretching," details Piparaiya who says static stretching involves stretching the muscle to the point of tension and holding it for a minimum of 30 seconds and dynamic stretching is actively engaging the muscle and moving it through its full range of motion like in hip circles. "PNF Stretching or neuromuscular stretching involves static stretching but with a combination of isometric contractions to increase its range of motion," she adds.

Pro Tip: Flexibility training is an integral part of a corrective exercise programme that also includes strength training.

–Kayalvizhi Arivalan for Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Five foods to reduce bloating and feel lighter instantly

Struggling with bloating can be an uncomfortable and frustrating experience, affecting our daily comfort and confidence. Fortunately, there are several simple yet effective tricks to alleviate bloating and restore a sense of well-being.

Ahead, our expert Geetika Bajaj reveals the five essential items that will help you beat the bloat instantly:

Bananas:

A good source of fibre, potassium and vitamin B6, bananas keep the digestive system running smoothly,regulate fluid balance and help break down carbohydrates and proteins.

Green Tea:

Green tea boasts abundant antioxidants, offering a variety of health benefits, including the reduction of bloating. Its catechins possess anti-inflammatory qualities, aiding in gas reduction while promoting digestion and gut health.

Fennel Seeds:

Rich in anethole, a compound known for its antispasmodic and carminative properties, these seeds aid in relaxing the muscles of the digestive tract, alleviating gas and bloating.

Papaya:

Renowned as a natural remedy to improve digestion, constipation, heartburn and symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), papaya stands as a potent natural remedy.

However, moderation is key as excessive consumption might cause intestinal gas.

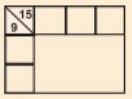
Buttermilk:

Also known as chaas, buttermilk is a conventional probiotic and one of the best anti-bloating foods. Rich in beneficial bacteria, it effectively prevents gas build-up, warding off acid reflux.

– Femina

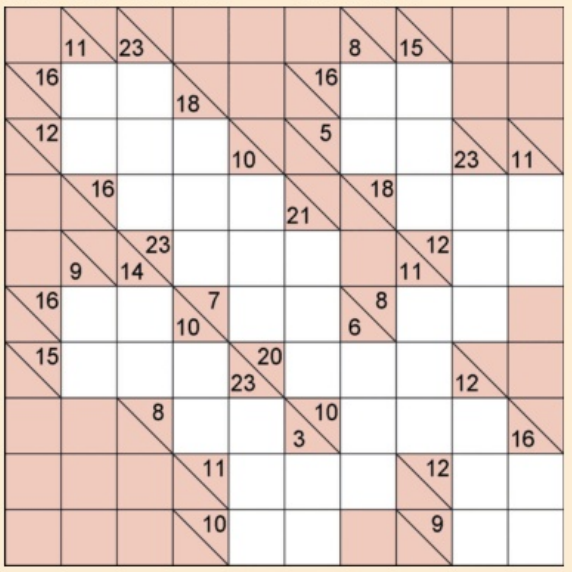
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

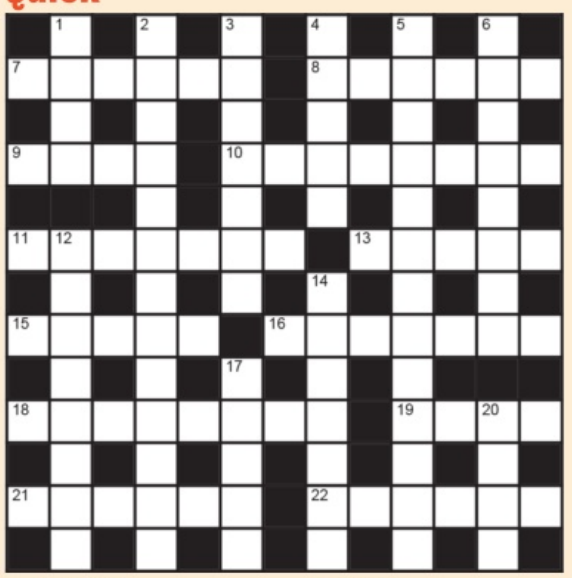


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 German city (6)
8 A martial art (6)
9 It is said that King John lost his baggage here in 1216 (4)
10 Fancy that (in a manner of speaking)! (4,4)
11 Pinches, pockets or swipes (7)
13 ___ one's ground : did not yield ? (5)
15 Imitating (5)
16 Fierce, brutal or barbarous persons (7)
18 A healthy drink (5-3)
19 Mass of bread (4)
21 Works of fiction (6)
22 Consequence, repercussion or result (6)

DOWN

1 Canned fish (4)
2 Inclined to steal (5-8)
3 Brief falls of rain (7)
4 Cranium (5)
5 Ends or concludes (5,2,1,5)
6 Rocky star (8)
12 Physically present? (2,6)
14 Jayachamaraja Wodeyar _____ : Last king of Mysore and first Governor of Karnataka (7)
17 Secret store or hiding place (5)
20 Bollywood's and TV's ___ Nath (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS U

PJEAG CFP BRML ILRHL NAED NDF CFP RXL, CFP'GG JLTLX UL HFJELJE NAED NDRE CFP DRTL

Linemaro

Do you know CPR? Cuz you take my breath away

Mindchow

Happiness is when what you say, what you think and what you do are in harmony

Joke of the day

When I see lovers' names carved in a tree, I don't think it's cute. I just think it's crazy how many people bring knives on a date

Loop

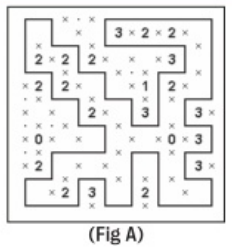
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

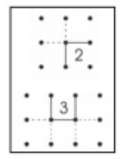
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

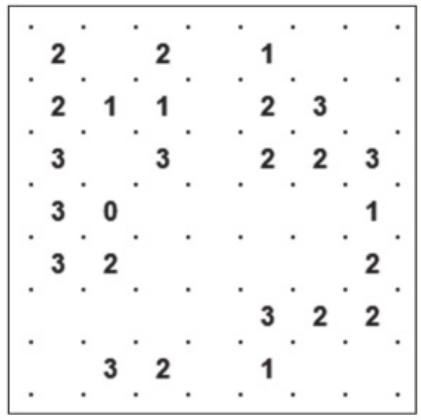
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



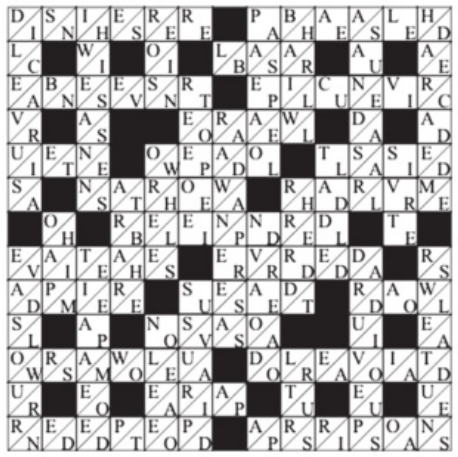
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8	M			
9				

ACROSS

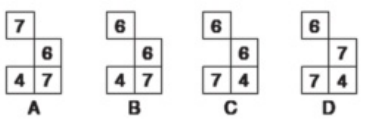
1 Dr Sus; 6 Leo in; 7 Crane; 8 Al Gem; 9 Recap

DOWN

1 Icons; 2 A alum; 3 Caper; 4 Ridge; 5 Ernes

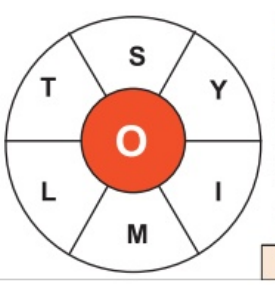
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?



4		3	5
7	9		8
5			6
8	10	7	9

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3		8	2	9			
				7		6		4
	7		6					
3						8		9
6	2						1	7
8		4						5
					5		9	
5		8		3				
			4	1	8		7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

4 5 6 9

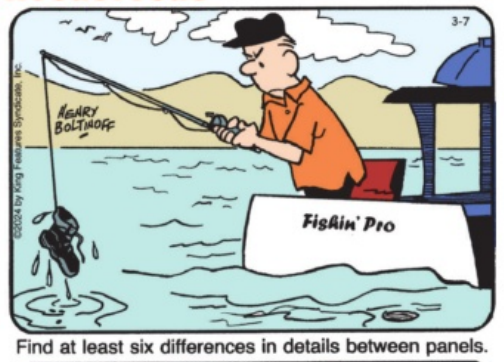
Medium = 3

1 3 6 7

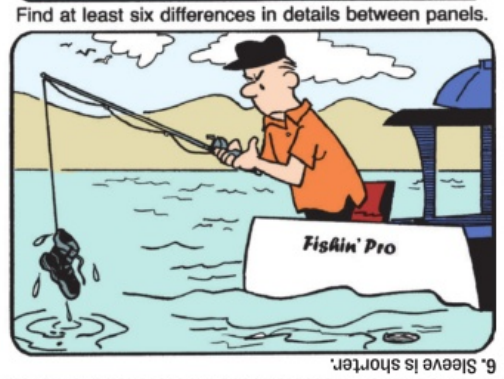
Hard = 4

2 4 8 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cloud is moved. 2. Water droplet is missing. 3. Ear is smaller. 4. Seat is not as wide. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

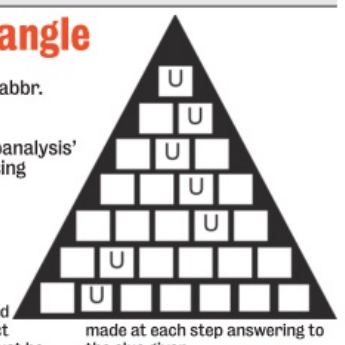
Riddler

The house shall fall, The sparrows mourn. Waste me not! In death I'm born. I hold the lines of poetry, Upon a lover's whim, I come from ancient giants Who gave me life from limb. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Last vowel
2 European Union, abbr.
3 Owing
4 Vendetta
5 'Father of Psychoanalysis'
6 Won a trick by using a trump
7 Disconcerted

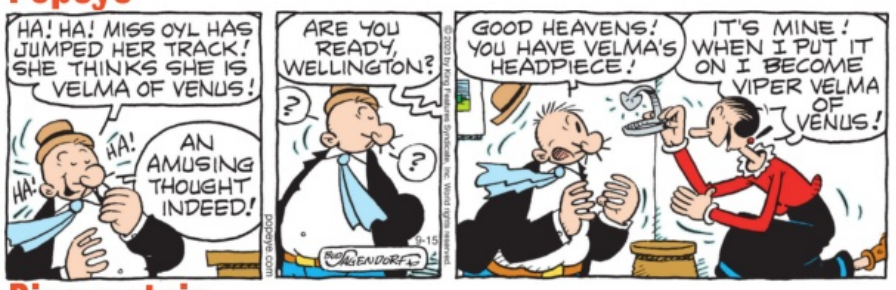
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.



DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


HA! HA! MISS OYL HAS JUMPED HER TRACK! SHE THINKS SHE IS VELMA OF VENUS!
HA!
HA!
AN AMUSING THOUGHT INDEED!
ARE YOU READY, WELLINGTON?
?
?
GOOD HEAVENS! YOU HAVE VELMA'S HEADPIECE!
IT'S MINE! WHEN I PUT IT ON I BECOME VIPER VELMA OF VENUS!

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 3-7-24
Our ideal candidate would be a totalitarian, but with a veneer of soft-spoken folksiness.
©2024 Bizarro Studios
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

IT'S NICE THAT LEE STILL WANTS TO HANG OUT EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T LIKE YOUR MESSY ROOM. SHOWS HOW MUCH SHE LIKES YOU.
THAT'S A GOOD POINT.
I HAVE LOTS OF THOSE.

Crankshaft

I PRINTED OFF A LIST OF THE MEDICATIONS I'M TAKING...
MAYBE IT WOULD BE EASIER IF I JUST TOLD YOU WHAT I'M NOT TAKING.
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

I'M HELPING SHMILLIE WRITE ONE OF THOSE CUTE BOOKS ABOUT CATS.
HOW?
YESHTERDAY I SHCRATCHED THE DINING ROOM FURNITURE.
I FIGURE THAT'S GOOD FOR AT LEAST ONE CHAPTER.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be very happy. Your losses may turn into gains. Your boss may be happy and appreciate your work. You may likely have some changes in your place or position at work, in terms of promotions. You are likely to have control over opponents and hidden enemies. Love birds may make important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today the moon is positive, your destiny will help you. You may likely visit some religious place with your family or friends. You may plan to donate some amount to any religious place or charity. Property-related deals may likely be done. You might plan for an overseas work trip. You may also plan for higher education. You are advised to drink plenty of water to avoid any kidney issues.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, the moon is negative. You may fall victim to conspiracies, so it is advisable to steer clear of controversies and avoid arguments in your domestic life. You should avoid rash driving or any adventurous tour. You may also be attracted to the occult. Natives related to research, occult, science, geology are likely to perform best.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be busy at work. Your energy could boost the speed of your project. You may be able to make quick decisions which will benefit your business. You may likely start an innovation in partnership. Investing in fixed assets with a business partner is not recommended.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may perform well at work and you may expect some promotions or transfers. You may also plan to change your current job. You will have a strong rapport with your seniors. Old health issues will be cured now. You are advised to control your eating habits, it may create stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. Things may be under control, you will enjoy at work, and you will be focused. Your wisdom will help you to make difficult decisions in terms of profession. Your past investments may likely give profits, which may boost your savings. Speculation is advised to avoid.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may have a dull feeling. You may be dissatisfied. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. it may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel energetic. You may efficiently perform at work, and your dedication may yield rewards, boosting your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential person may boost your network. Disputes with the partner may also be resolved.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are blessed by the moon. You will be happy. You are polite with the people around. You may take some difficult decisions in the business, with the help of your family members. You are likely to secure a large order with the aid of your communication abilities, potentially expanding the business. It's advisable to take care of potential throat, ear, and eye issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. You might feel strong inside and enjoy your work. You might cherish romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing harmony at home. You are likely to implement new ideas in the family business, your perfection may help you to implement the plans successfully. Job seekers may find good jobs. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be dull and disappointed. It's recommended to manage your arrogance, as harsh speaking could lead to losses when interacting with those around you. Love birds should be careful in making discussions on worthless topics, it may be a reason for a breakup in the relationship.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, there may be peace in the mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity in your business. Your earnings may boost your bank balance. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles may likely find a good match. Love birds may decide to get married.

KIDZONE

Varun G, 10 Years, New Generation National Public School

MD Anas Baig , 7 Years, Bishop Cotton Boys School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$[(\sqrt[3]{5} \times \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{9}) / (1-\sqrt{2})]^3$
$[2 \times (\sqrt[3]{4} \times \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{9})]^2$
$[2 \times (\sqrt[3]{2^{-1}} \times 2^{-2} \times 2^{-3})]^5$
$[2 \times (\sqrt[3]{2^{-6}})]^2$
$[1]^2 = 1$

RIDDLER Paper

BULL'S EYE lost, moist, MOISTLY, most, mostly, oily, omit, silo, slot, soil, toil

FAST FIVE

S	U	R	D	S
O	L	E	I	N
N	A	C	R	E
I	M	A	G	E
C	A	P	E	R

STRIKE OUT

I	N	H	E	R	E	P	H	A	S	E	D			
C	I	O	B	A	A	A	E							
A	B	S	E	N	T	P	I	C	N	I	C			
R	S	O	R	A	L	D	A							
U	T	E	O	P	A	L	A	I	D					
S	S	T	R	E	W	H	A	L	V	E				
H	B	L	E	N	D	E	D	E						
A	M	E	R	U	S	E	D	R	A	W				
L	A	O	S	S	A	I	E							
O	R	M	O	L	U	D	R	A	V	I	D			
U	E	E	R	A	U	E	E							
R	E	D	T	O	P	P	R	I	S	O	N			

QUICK

N		D		H		R	E	K						
N	O	V	E	L	S		U	P	S	H	O	T		
S		R		A	D		O		L					
G	R	E	E	N	T	E	A		L	O	A	F		
E		G	S		H		C							
A	P	I	N	G		S	A	V	A	G	E	S		
N		I		S		B		O		N				
P	I	L	F	E	R	S		S	T	O	O	D		
		T		E		L		S		L				
W	A	S	H		W	E	L	L	W	E	L	L		
N		G		O		U		A		A				
M	U	N	I	C	H		K	A	R	A	T	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
C: looking across, lines progress +2, -3, +2. Looking down, columns progress +3, -2, +3.

QUOTE UNCODE
Until you make peace with who you are, you'll never be content with what you have

SUDOKU

4	3	6	8	2	9	7	5	1
9	8	5	3	7	1	6	2	4
1	7	2	6	5	4	9	8	3
3	5	7	1	4	2	8	6	9
6	2	9	5	8	3	4	1	7
8	1	4	7	9	6	2	3	5
7	4	1	2	6	5	3	9	8
5	6	8	9	3	7	1	4	2
2	9	3	4	1	8	5	7	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, EU, Due, feud, Freud, Ruffed, Ruffled.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 – 5 + 9 + 4 = 14
Medium
6 + 3 – 7 + 1 = 3
Hard
2 – 3 x 4 + 8 = 4

KAKURO

7	9	1	8	2	9	3	1	2
9	7	4	2	1	6	8	2	7
4	8	1	9	6	8	9	7	3
6	2	9	7	3	4	1	8	5
8	1	3	6	2	5	7	9	4
5	6	2	3	8	7	4	5	9
3	4	7	1	9	2	6	3	8
2	9	8	5	7	3	2	4	1
1	3	5	4	6	1	9	2	7

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Some me time

Malaika has no time for rumours, she is busy staying happy

Malaika Arora has been making waves on social media with her recent sun-soaked photos from her girls' trip to France. The Bollywood diva took to Instagram to share glimpses of her luxurious vacation, where she was seen enjoying local delicacies, relaxing on a luxury boat, and basking in the beauty of the French coastline. Captioning her post with "J'adore".

However, her picturesque vacation comes amid swirling rumours about her personal life. Speculations are rife that Malaika has parted ways with her longtime boyfriend, actor Arjun Kapoor. The couple, who had been in love for several years, have reportedly decided to end their relationship. According to a recent report, Malaika and Arjun have 'respectfully parted ways' as their relationship 'ran its course.'

Despite these breakup rumours, Malaika's manager has come forward to address the speculations. In a conversation with India Today, the manager dismissed the speculation, stating, "No no, all rumours." This statement has left fans in a state of confusion, wondering about the true status of the couple's relationship.

Malaika's recent Instagram post has been seen by many as a way to signal her current state of mind, focusing on her happiness and enjoying life with her friends.

–ETimes

Alia amps up her oomph quotient

Actor Alia Bhatt, who will soon be seen in the upcoming movie 'Jigra', has made a stylish statement with her latest outfit.

On Sunday, the actress took to Instagram and shared several pictures of her new outfit.

In the photos, she is seen wearing a beige bikini top with a pink floral design. She paired it with a matching jacket featuring embellished borders and solid beige pants.

Alia accessorised minimally and left her hair open. The actress captioned the post: "From not so long ago." On the work front, Alia also has an untitled film from the YRF spy universe in which she will share the screen with Sharvari.

The film is set to feature seven action sequences and is directed by Shiv Rawail, who made his directorial debut with the acclaimed miniseries 'The Railway Men'. –IANS

That's intense

Deepika Padukone took to her IG handle on Sunday to share her intense look for Kalki 2898 AD. Deepika herself shared the poster on social media, announcing that the trailer will drop tomorrow. Moreover, she added to the intrigue with a cryptic caption hinting at the pivotal role her character will play in shaping the fate of humanity. Directed by the esteemed filmmaker Nag Ashwin, "Kalki 2898 AD" promises to transport audiences to a unique and compelling world where survival is at stake and hope rests on the shoulders of a select few.

As soon as DP shared the post, husband Ranveer Singh fell in love with her avatar. He commented, saying, "B O O M stunner !" Many other fans and celebs too, went gaga over DP's look. In this latest glimpse into the film's futuristic world, Deepika's character appears to be grappling with profound emotions amidst a dystopian landscape.

–ETimes

Aditi Rao Hydari wows fans

Actor Aditi Rao Hydari, who attended the Cannes Film Festival 2024, left fans stunned as she shared a couple of pictures from her first look.

The actress, who recently made waves with her role as 'Bibbojaan' in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Heeramandi,' took to her Instagram on Saturday to share a series of stunning pictures in her gorgeous ethnic outfit.

Aditi looked jaw-dropping as she posed by the river in her full-sleeved golden kurti paired with a matching skirt.

Pairing the outfit with matching jhumkas, Aditi styled her hair into a sleek bun, adorned with a gajra. She kept her makeup minimal with pink eyeshadow, mascara-coated lashes, contouring, and dark red lipstick to complete her stunning look. Along with the pictures, she wrote a caption that read, "Bibbojaan is worth it! My first Cannes appearance is a #lategram. Channelling beauty vibes from my Amma and my Rekha ma. In gold, Malli poo (flowers), and a bottu (bindi)."

Talking about her work front, Aditi is enjoying the success of her latest series, 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar,' and is set to appear in Kishor Pandurang Belekar's upcoming comedy film Gandhi Talks with Vijay Sethupathi and Mahesh Manjrekar. Apart from this, she'll be featured in the historical drama Lioness. –ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

On a sad note

The team of film Taj converted the teaser launch of the movie into a condolence meeting to pay floral tributes to Apsara, the female lead who ended her life by suicide recently. Apsara hails from a village in Mandya and has acted in one Hindi and a few Telugu and movies. The teaser launch of the movie was held at SRV Theater.

"We are lucky to have Apsara as the female lead in the movie. She was gregarious and completed dubbing for the movie. We did not expect her to leave this world so soon. It is not the age to die," said director B Rajarathna.

The director said the movie is based on a true incident in Karnataka. "The shooting of the movie was held in Bengaluru. I do not want to reveal the names of those involved in the incident and its place till the movie is released. We have completed the post-production works and are set to approach the Central Board of Film Certification," the director said.

Shanmukha, a civil engineer from Bellary, makes debut as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie. "I thank well-known cinematographer-cum-producer Anaji Nagaraj for encouraging and supporting me," said Shanmukha.

Tribute to Cauvery Theater

The team of the movie Chilli Chicken paid a tribute to Cauvery Theater that was shut down recently, with a song about how the iconic theater was a destination for screening an array of movies. The trailer of Chilli Chicken was launched at Kalavidara Sangha on Saturday evening. Sandalwood actor Vijaya Raghavendra was to be the chief guest but he could not turn up. National award winner BN Subramanya launched the trailer.

BV Shrunga, a theater artist who played the lead in 19.20.21, plays the owner of a Chinese restaurant. "I had a nice experience. I also happened to see youths, who work in Chinese restaurants in the city, going home after their shift at HSR Layout," said Shrunga.

Director Prateek Prajosh said a set resembling a chinese eatery was put up at HSR Layout. "There were occasions when people would walk in and enquire about the menu."